MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
1800 Washington Boulevard • Suite 620 • Baltimore, Maryland 21230-1719
410-537-3386 • 800-633-6101 x3386 • http://www.mde.state.md.us
Waste Management Administration • Oil Control Program

MDE Remarks
Upper Crossroads Public Meeting
Fallston, Maryland
July 20, 2004

Good Evening ladies and gentlemen, my name is Herb Meade. I'm the Program Administrator for the Oil Control Program of the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). Joining me from the Department is: Yolande Norman (OCP's Chief of Remediation) and Richard McIntire (Media Relations). I wash to thank Jesse Bane and the Fallston Community Council for facilitating this meeting and inviting MDE. I will provide an update on activities that have occurred on the Upper Crossroads investigation since the last community meeting attended by MDE on June 21, 2004.

Except for the undeveloped lots in The Fields of DelMar, the half-mile radius sampling and analysis has been completed in both initial and confirmation runs. MDE authorized ExxonMobil to step out of the half-mile radius in several areas to complete a number of dead-end streets, small neighborhoods and for other individual concerns. In order to validate the results of ExxonMobil's sampling, MDE has split an average of 10% of the samples collected. The Harford County Health Department has also split a percentage of the samples. The government samples are being analyzed by either the State's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Laboratory or Phase Separations, a private Laboratory.

The split sampling activities have correlated well with the ExxonMobil results. All of the sample analyses still reveal that the only compound of concern is the gasoline additive MTBE.

The Maryland Department of the Environment has established an action level, also known as a guidance level for MTBE at 20ppb. This low level is based on odor and taste, not health effects. Based on all of the currently available research on MTBE, there are no health effects of MTBE at the low levels we are seeing in the Upper Crossroads area. Maryland action level has been set at 20 ppb. Other states have chosen to go below 20ppb while still others have set levels at 200 ppb or higher.

The last reports on the sampling activity in the Upper Crossroads study area indicates:

- 276 wells have been sampled; and
- 161 drinking water wells are within a half-mile radius of the ExxonMobil service station.

Completed analysis has revealed:

- 111 wells with no detectable levels of MTBE;
- 94 wells with MTBE detections from 0 to 5 ppb;
- 12 wells with MTBE detections from 5 to 10 ppb;
- 11 wells with MTBE detections from 10 to 20 ppb; and

- 10 wells with MTBE detections above 20 ppb (MDE State action level).

•ExxonMobil was required by MDE to install carbon filtration systems on the ten wells with MTBE at or over the State action level of 20 ppb. This work has been accomplished. ExxonMobil has chosen to install carbon filtration systems on approximately 110 additional wells with detectable levels of MTBE.

MDE is no longer requiring investigation sampling in a radius format. The sampling that is being required now is based on the MTBE trends that are becoming evident from the data being collected. Those trends have lead us to expand sampling down Baldwin Mill Road to include the community of Orchard Lakes and down Green Road including Hunting Ridge Court to the Upper Crossroads Church at Crystle Lane. Once analyses of that sampling is completed and reviewed, a decision will be made on the need for further expansion of the study area.

Sampling will continue within the study area to ensure the proper functioning of carbon filtration systems that have been placed on private wells, evaluation of contamination trends and monitoring of wells with non-detects. Sampling schedule decisions still need to be made.

On July 6, 2004 the Department issued a letter to ExxonMobil outlining investigation requirements and required that ExxonMobil submit a geological investigation plan to the Department by July 14, 2004. ExxonMobil has submitted the plan to the Department. The plan is under review and the Department will comment back to ExxonMobil by the end of this week. Copies of both our letter of July 6th and ExxonMobil's plan can be found on MDE's web site www.mde.state.md.us. There is a direct link to the case data on the MDE home page.

Once the geological investigation is complete, in September, ExxonMobil will be required by MDE to submit a Corrective Action Plan. Maryland regulations require public participation in the Corrective Action Plan review process. The form of that participation has yet to be decided.

The following activities have occurred at the Exxon Station. Before, the June 21st meeting, a device called a Soil Vacuum Extraction system was installed to remove soil vapor containing MTBE from the soil around the storage tank-pit and site monitoring well number 2, which is one of four monitoring wells now on site. The unit is removing contaminated soil vapor from the subsurface and processing it through a carbon filtration system. Tests indicate that the filtration system is functioning properly and removing all of the MTBE from the air before it is released into the atmosphere.

Also, a groundwater pump and treat system has been staged on site. The pumping system has received all permits from MDE and additional county level permits are being processed. The groundwater pumping system will not be turned on until further study is completed in order for MDE to better understand how the groundwater pumping system will affect local groundwater flow.

Sampling of the monitoring wells on the station have revealed:

- Tank Field well highest result was 26,000ppb MTBE it is now 97.3ppb;
- MW1 high 3.33 now 2.2;
- MW2 high 3,730 now 290;
- MW3 high 13.3 now 12.8; and
- MW4 high 51.0 now 39.9.

This clearly shows that the Soil Vapor Extraction system is functioning properly.

On June 30, 2004 MDE completed an additional compliance inspection at the station and has found the station to be in compliance. However, at the request of the Maryland Department of the Environment, ExxonMobil is conducting an enhanced leak detection test called a Tracer Tight Test at the station starting today.

MDE is providing oversight during the testing period that will take 3 to 7 days. To obtain an accurate test the service station must be operating during the testing period.

The Tracer test can detect both liquid and vapor releases from the underground gasoline storage systems at the station at a level below the threshold for regulatory compliance and below the most commonly required release detection tests.

During the test, environmentally safe tracer compounds are placed into the gasoline in the service station tanks. Tracer sensing probes are placed in the ground around the tanks, piping and pumps. During the testing period the sensing probes are analyzed for the presence of any Tracer compounds that may have escaped the storage tank system.

The Tracer Test will provide additional information regarding whether the UST systems are tight or help us identify a previously undiscovered problem with the system. Our goal and MDE will accept nothing less, is for ExxonMobil to detect and repair any leaks and ensure a tight operating system upon completion of the test.

Off the ExxonMobil site, the sample analysis indicates a logical trend of contamination from the site in a Southerly direction. Analysis also indicates that there maybe additional/contributing sources of MTBE. The sampling map shows some of these areas as North of the ExxonMobil station in the Cross Country Court area, West of the station in the Haddon Hurst area and the Westerly portions of Scarff Road. We are further investigating potential sources, which include business activities, former underground tank locations (south of the Exxon), storm water management systems, poor petroleum handling activities etc.

Because sampling is showing the MTBE is prevalent not only in the Fallston area but also statewide, MDE encourages you as an individual to review and improve your petroleum handling activities, whether that is at the gas station where you fill your car or at your home where you fill your lawn mower or work on your own car.

As stated before by the Department MTBE is found in all petroleum products including home heating oil. If you have an underground home heating oil tank we encourage you to test your tank for tightness. Better yet, if your tank is 15 years of age or older make arrangements to replace the tank with an above ground storage tank or switch to an alternative heating method.

In conclusion MDE is encouraged by the level of cooperation showed by ExxonMobil, the stations dealer, the County Health Department, elected officials, community leaders and residents in regard to this investigation. Site trends are now materializing and we are optimistic that once the geological investigation is completed a feasible remedial action can be implemented. We continue to work hard to provide up to date information to the community and again thank the Fallston Community Council for assisting with this mission. MDE file is available at our headquarters under the Pubic Information Act process. We have promised that a copy of the file will be available to the Fallston Library. That has not occurred but is still being worked on. However, all critical case documents are being placed on MDE's web site and as always our staff remains available to answer your questions. Thank you for your attention.

Revised 7/20/04 13:00